

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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TO AMEMBASSY BONN
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SECSTATE WASHDC 2592

UNCLAS BREMEN 233

DEPARTMENT FOR EUR/CE AND INR/REU

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT GW
SUBJECT: ENVIRONMENTALISTS PREPARE THEMSELVES FOR LOWER
SAXONY LAND ELECTIONS

1. ON APRIL 8 AND 9, THE NEARLY ONE HUNDRED DELEGATES
OF THE NEW ENVIRONMENTALIST PARTY IN LOWER SAXONY "GRUENE
LISTE UMWELTSCHUTZ" (GLU), MET NEAR OSTERHOLZ-SCHARMBECK
FOR THEIR THIRD LAND CONVENTION. THE CONVENTION
DRAFTED THE GLU ELECTION PLATFORM AND COMPILED A CANDIDATE
LIST FOR THE JUNE 4 LOWER SAXONY LAND ELECTIONS.

2. THE GLU WAS FOUNDED IN DECEMBER 1977. IT GREW OUT OF
THE LOWER SAXONY "PARTY FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION",
CONSTITUTED IN FALLINGBOSTEL IN MAY 1977 AS AN OUTGROWTH
OF THE ACTIVITIES OF SEVERAL BUERGERINITIATIVEN (B.I.).
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GLU PARTY ORGANIZATIONS PRESENTLY EXIST IN MOST PARTS OF
LOWER SAXONY. THE PARTY HOPES TO FIELD CANDIDATES IN ALL
99 LAND ELECTION DISTRICTS. THE MAIN TARGETS IN THE
ELECTORATE WILL BE "PROTEST VOTERS" FROM VARIOUS BI'S
(CITIZEN INITIATIVES), WHO ARE DISAFFECTED FROM THE
THREE TRADITIONAL PARTIES.

3. GLU CHAIRMAN CARL BEDDERMANN, AN OBERREGIERUNGSRAT IN THE HANNOVER FINANCE ADMINISTRATION, WHO DECLARED THAT HIS PARTY IS "NEITHER BLACK, NOR RED, NOR MOTTLED, BUT GREEN", IS CONVINCED THAT THE GLU WILL SURMOUNT THE 5 PERCENT HURDLE (I.E. WILL WIN AT LEAST 200,000 VOTES) AND WILL ELECT SEVERAL DEPUTIES TO THE NEXT LOWER SAXONY LANDTAG (LEGISLATURE).

4. COMMENT: APART FROM POSSIBLE LOCALIZED DISPLAYS OF STRENGTH, THE GLU IS GENERALLY EXPECTED TO FALL FAR BELOW THE 5 PERCENT MARK. NEVERTHELESS, ITS ENTRY ON A LAND-WIDE BASIS MIGHT POSE A THREAT MAINLY TO FDP. WHEREAS SPD AND CDU COULD MORE OR LESS " AFFORD" TO LOSE SOME VOTES TO THE GLU, A SLIGHT LOSS OF VOTES MIGHT SUFFICE TO BRING THE LIBERALS INTO DANGEROUS PROXIMITY TO THE 5 PERCENT BARRIER (FDP POLLED 7 PERCENT IN 1974). ALTHOUGH THE CONVENTION WAS HELD IN OSTERHOLZ-SCHARMBECK, THE FUTURE HOME OF BRIGADE 75, THE STATIONING OF THE US MILITARY IN THE AREA WAS NOT BROUGHT UP. SCHIFFMAN

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